

MIKE Keen, the Wycombe Wanderers manager, is on the desperate look-out for a couple of talented strikers after learning the shock news that he will be without Gary Toll and Terry Scott at the start of next season, writes MICHAEL KNOX.

These fine young players, who formed such an effective striking duo in Wanderers' brilliant run at the end of the season, are seeking their immediate future abroad.

Scott, Wycombe's top scorer in all matches with 26 goals last season, is spending the summer in the United States of America, hoping I believe to play for a college out there. He has already been refused permission by Wycombe to play in the

North American Soccer League. 'I don't know if Scott will return at all,' said a gloomy Mr Keen this week.

Toll, who holds a remarkable record in that he was on the winning side every time he played for Wanderers in a league game, is seeking his future in the opposite direction.

He leaves this weekend to take up a job in Kuwait. Originally he is expected to spend two to three months out there but Mr Keen said that if life suits Toll out there, he might be there for an extended stay.

Headache

This double departure if it becomes permanent, would leave Mr Keen with a big headache, for this pair were the side's most effective goalscorers. The remaining front runners Paul Miles, Tony Price and Steve Long have not proved so far to be prolific strikers.

Mr Keen is only too aware that good strikers are not easy to come by. Unless he can come up with a similar coup that brought Toll from Flackwell Heath to

Wycombe for nothing, he is likely to have to dig deep into the club coffers.

He will be hoping to make the most of his contacts throughout football but Wanderers could be struggling for firepower when the season starts.

Reserve boss

A more immediate problem for Mr Keen is that of appointing a reserve team manager. He has made an approach to a certain figure, who has not, as yet, accepted the job.

Mr Keen has set a deadline for a reply by the end of this week and so news of the reserve manager could be imminent. Mr Keen has decided not to appoint a coach, as he will be taking the training sessions himself.

Wycombe's Reserve team have been accepted into the Suburban League for next season, along with other newcomers Addlestone. Not so lucky were Burnham Reserves, champions of the Middlesex Border League for the past three seasons.

They received 22 votes in favour of their application with 17 against, but just failed to obtain the necessary two thirds ma-

jority. The third vacancy, was, therefore, left unfilled.

One matter definitely resolved at Loakes Park is their pre-season friendly programme. Wanderers meet Weymouth of the Alliance League on Saturday, August 9 and Southern Leaguers Aylesbury three days later. Both matches are at home.

At the annual meeting of the Kingsmead Athenian League, Basildon were elected to fill the vacancy left by the withdrawal of Barking Town.

JOHN Delaney, captain of the Wycombe Wanderers side during the successful early 1970s, has turned down the chance of returning to Loakes Park as Reserve team manager.

Delaney was approached by club manager Mike Keen to take over the Reserves, which have been re-formed after a 12-year break and which will play in the Suburban League next season.

But 'Big John', now 37, declined, saying he wanted to continue playing in as high a grade of football as possible. So he will stay at another Isthmian League side Hampton, whom he joined recently.

Delaney, a tall powerful centre half and a strong per-

sonality explained his decision at the weekend.

'I've done everything at Wycombe but nothing at Hampton and I would like them to achieve something. I've been offered a coaching position there but my main aim is to keep playing.

'I don't care if I don't coach but I do care if I don't play. Nothing beats playing,' he added.

Delaney, who played on Wycombe's recent tour of Italy, joined Hampton towards the end of last season after losing his job as manager of Tring Town.

Coincidence

It was the latest move in a distinguished and unusual career for a whole-hearted player. He did not start playing in the Football League until after his 30th birthday.

Report by MICHAEL KNOX

He signed for Bournemouth, then in the Third Division after impressing them in a friendly which Wycombe won. Then in 1974/75 came an amazing coincidence when Wycombe were drawn to meet Bournemouth in the second round of the FA Cup — a match which the Blues won after a replay to earn their historic match with Middlesbrough.

Delaney, a good friend of the then Wycombe manager Brian Lee returned to Loakes Park for a second spell but was soon on his travels again.

Mike Keen was disappointed that Delaney had not accepted the offer to manage the Reserves.

He said: 'John would have helped me all round. It would have worked out quite

well especially with his setting an example on the field. He's not afraid to give people a kick up the backside.'

Mr Keen, who confirmed that Delaney had been the first choice for the job, partly because he lived locally in High Wycombe, said that he would have no difficulty filling the position.

There are several people interested in doing the job. One of these undoubtedly is long serving goalkeeper John Maskell, a qualified coach. The only snag could be the fact that he lives in Oxford.

One position Mr Keen has filled is that of Reserve team physiotherapist. The job goes to Dave Springell, formerly of Naphill and Flackwell Heath, who performed the role for Irish Club in the Wycombe Sunday Combination last season.